

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A sintered body for thermistor devices comprising:
at least one element selected from elements of group 3 in a periodic table excluding La; at least one element selected from elements of group 2 in a periodic table; Mn; Al; and oxygen, and being substantially free from any transition metal other than Mn and the at least one element selected from elements of group 3 in the periodic table and with the proviso that the sintered body does not contain La₂

wherein the at least one element selected from elements of group 3 in a periodic table excluding La is Y, Sc, Ce, Nd, Sm, Eu, Gd, Dy, Er or Yb and the at least one element selected from elements of group 2 in a periodic table is Ca, Sr, Mg or Ba.

2. (previously presented): The sintered body according to claim 1, which satisfies the following formulae (1) and (2):

$$0.02 \leq a < 1 \quad (1)$$

$$b+c=1 \quad (2)$$

provided that a content of the at least one element selected from elements of group 3 in a periodic table excluding La is referred to 1-a mol; a content of the at least one element selected from elements of group 2 in a periodic table is referred to as a mol; a content of Mn is referred to as b mol; and a content of Al is referred to as c mol.

3. (original): The sintered body according to claim 2, wherein the content b of Mn satisfies the following formula $0.10 \leq b \leq 0.30$.

4. (canceled).

5. (currently amended): The sintered body according to ~~any of~~ claim 1, which contains Si element.

6. (original): A thermistor device comprising the sintered body according to claim 1 and a pair of electrode leads which is embedded in the sintered body and at least one end of which is drawn out to take an output signal.

7. (original): A temperature sensor using the thermistor device according to claim 6.

8. (currently amended): A thermistor device comprising a sintered body and a pair of electrode leads which is embedded in the sintered body and at least one end of which is drawn out to take an output signal, wherein the sintered body comprises:

at least one element selected from elements of group 3 in a periodic table excluding La; at least one element selected from elements of group 2 in a periodic table; Mn; Al; and oxygen, and being substantially free from any transition metal other than Mn and the at least one element selected from elements of group 3 in the periodic table and with the proviso that the sintered body does not contain La,

which sintered body satisfies the following formulae (1) and (2):

$$0.02 \leq a < 1 \quad (1)$$

$$b+c=1 \quad (2)$$

provided that a content of the at least one element selected from elements of group 3 in a periodic table excluding La is referred to 1-a mol; a content of the at least one element selected from elements of group 2 in a periodic table is referred to as a mol; a content of Mn

is referred to as b mol; and a content of Al is referred to as c mol, and wherein the content b of Mn satisfies the following formula $0.10 \leq b \leq 0.30$,

wherein the at least one element selected from elements of group 3 in a periodic table excluding La is Y, Sc, Ce, Nd, Sm, Eu, Gd, Dy, Er or Yb and the at least one element selected from elements of group 2 in a periodic table is Ca, Sr, Mg or Ba.

9. (new): The sintered body according to claim 1, wherein the at least one element selected from elements of group 3 in a periodic table excluding La is Y, Nb, Sm or Gd, and the at least one element selected from elements of group 2 in a periodic table is Ca or Sr.

10. (new): The thermistor device according to claim 8, wherein the at least one element selected from elements of group 3 in a periodic table excluding La is Y, Nb, Sm or Gd, and the at least one element selected from elements of group 2 in a periodic table is Ca or Sr.